

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T STATE 139635

LIMDIS

FOLTEL FM LONDON 13 JUL 73 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD
NEW DELHI AND TEHRAN REPEATED TO YOU FOR ACTION

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S E C R E T LONDON 08078

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IR

SUBJECT: AFGHAN KING'S VIEWS ON IRAN AND PAKISTAN

1. ON JULY 11 FCO SOUTH ASIA DEPT. HEAD CHALMERS GAVE US (AND VISITING MADRAS CONGEN PALMER) HIGHLIGHTS OF LONG DISCUSSION HE HAD HAD WITH KING ZAHIR AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO KING'S DEPARTURE. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN.
2. KING SAID SHAH WAS NICE FELLOW BUT HE TENDED TO SEE WORLD ENTIRELY WITH IRAN AS THE CENTER. SHAH ALWAYS LECTURED KING ON SOVIET THREAT. KING'S STANDARD REPLY IS THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS PECULIAR GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND IS POOR. AS LONG AS THESE FACTS UNCHANGED, AFGHAN POLICY CANNOT CHANGE. NEVERTHELESS, SHAH KEEPS PREACHING
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SAME GOSPEL.

3. KING SAID SHAH IS A PROUD MAN AND PAKISTANIS KNOW IT. THEY PLAY UP MARTIAL IMAGE OF IRANIAN MILITARY IN ORDER TO GET ACCESS TO IRANIAN ARMOURY, IF NOT ALSO SOLDIERY, IN TIME OF CONFLICT. IN TRUTH, KING COMMENTED, IRANIANS ARE NOT MUCH AS FIGHTERS. IF HE WERE TO BRING DOWN SAY 3,000 OF HIS PATHANS AGAINST IRANIAN ARMY SOMETIME, WORLD WOULD BE TREATED TO IMPRESSIVE VIEW OF IRANIAN RETREAT. IN MEANTIME HE WAS KEEPING AN EYE ON SITUATION.

4. CHALMERS WAS IMPRESSED BY KING'S CANDIDNESS AND PERSPICACITY.

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